

# SAXON HARBOR BOATING CLUB

15966 North Hwy 122, Saxon, WI 54559  
www.saxonharborboatingclub.org

*North is my direction*  
*Saxon Harbor is my destination*

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DATE: May 5, 2013

John A. Colletti

U.S. EPA, Region 5 NPDES Programs Branch  
-WN-16J 77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, Illinois 60604

RE: Public Comment, Request for hearing regarding proposed NPDES permit WI-0036587-4

Dear Mr. Colletti:

The Board of Directors and Officers of the Saxon Harbor Boating Club and on behalf of its 230 plus members have great concern regarding the condition of Lake Superior and the lack of regulation enforcement shown by the EPA about the contamination that has been brought to our attention. As citizens that reside near the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in northern Wisconsin, we are writing to express our concern about the EPA's proposed re-issuance of the NPDES permit for the Bad River Band's wastewater treatment facility in Odanah, Wisconsin. According to the EPA's own records, this facility has been, and continues to be, in violation of the Clean Water Act as expressed by the pollutant discharge limits set forth in their expired permit. As citizens of northern Wisconsin, we are concerned that the EPA would re-issue a permit to this facility without first requiring it to be in full compliance with clean water standards.

According to research compiled by the group Media Trackers, EPA data shows that the Bad River Band's wastewater treatment facility has discharged excessive amounts of e. coli, phosphorus, and suspended solids into the Bad River, which flows into lake Superior. Specifically, EPA data shows that the Bad River Band facility has released water with e. coli levels as high as 5,400% in excess of permitted limits. In a 57-month period, the facility violated e. coli limits 42 times. Phosphorus levels have been exceeded by up to 400% sometimes as well, according to EPA records.

The importance of the Bad River and Lake Superior to our way of life here in northern Wisconsin should not be underestimated. Beaches downstream from the Bad River Band facility have been closed due to excessive e. coli levels, and uncertainty remains about the quality of our water thanks to this facilities ongoing violations.

In light of these facts, I am asking that the EPA not approve this new NPDES permit for the Bad River Band until the following two conditions are met:

- 1) The EPA is able to certify that the facility is operating in compliance with Clean Water Act standards.
- 2) A hearing is held in northern Wisconsin, preferably near the area impacted by the Bad River Band facility, so the public can better voice their concerns about clean water, and EPA experts can share. How they plan to ensure that any new permit will lead to compliance with the Clean Water Act.

Sincerely,

Joe Maslanka, President  
Keith Richard, Vice-President  
Stevie LaFortune – Secretary  
Peter Kester – Treasurer  
Susan Kalm – Board Member  
Ed Alonen – Board Member  
Neil Gilbertson – Board Member  
Charlie Maslanka – Board Member  
Greg Massoglia – Board Member

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